

# JUST SO THE PEOPLE MAY KNOW

## Exposure of Spite Work Tactics That Have Been Resorted To By Certain Parties In Alliance For Some Month's Past

BY JOHN W. THOMAS, Editor

As the readers of this paper are well aware, it has been the policy of The Herald under my editorship to promote harmony. This has been done for two reasons: First, because it is right; and, in the second place, because unity of effort is better than discord in trying to build up the business interests of the city.

There is not a business man worthy of the name who does not look with contempt upon petty spite work among competitors. In order to avoid fomenting strife, The Herald has ignored some of the most unfair and untruthful attacks that it was possible for certain parties to make; but I feel that silence in regard to these matters is no longer a virtue. Even now, however, I do not intend to engage in a newspaper wrangle, but will make a plain statement and let that suffice.

For the sake of peace, The Herald has submitted to some of the grossest misrepresentations imaginable; now that other business interests of Alliance have been spitefully attacked by the same persons, all doubts as to the propriety of making such an explanation as the following have been removed.

The Herald is not particularly interested in any differences that may exist between County Commissioner Frank C. Reck and the publishers of the Alliance Times, except that Mr. Reck represents an Alliance business interest and an industry that to a considerable extent helps to build up the city. To show the animus of the attack and that the editor of the Times made untruthful statements about him and his business, not by being mistaken, but purposely, I wish to make a brief statement here regarding county printing, which will make the matter very plain to any one who wishes to know.

Prior to the first meeting of the board of county commissioners for this year, last January, the publisher of The Herald proposed to the Times to present to the board of joint bid for the county printing for this year, each paper to receive half pay for the same. This proposition was rejected by the publishers of the Times, followed by an effort to shut The Herald out of county printing entirely. In this they failed. The county board ordered that the minutes of commissioners' proceedings be published in both the Times and The Herald, each paper to receive a nominal price for the same. The order for the publication of the delinquent tax list, which was the principal item in the county printing for the year, was deferred to a later date. In trying to bring Commissioner Reck into line for their program, the editor of the Times adopted the following tactics: First, coaxing, using as an argument that, as the Times was a republican paper and The Herald democratic, they should have all the pay for the tax list at The Herald none; then he tried threatening Mr. Reck, telling him what he as an editor would do to him as a county officer if he did not submit to the demands of his paper; lastly, when Mr. Reck would neither be coaxed nor bulldozed into an official act that would, without doubt, have been objectionable to a large majority of his constituents. The Times editor tried carrying out his threat of "throwing the books" into the unyielding county commissioner.

### The First Step in the Game

While trying to coax Mr. Reck to fall in with their plans, they published statements commending highly his work as a contractor, exactly the same work which they afterwards condemned in unmeasured terms when carrying out threats which they had made in trying to accomplish their unfair purposes. Two quotations from the Times regarding the Central school building prove this statement:

In the issue of the Times dated Friday, July 26, 1913, the following appeared under the head, "New Central School Building Being Pushed to Completion":

"Within the next two or three days the new Central school building will be ready for the second story joists. The foundations are all laid and the stone work set. The brown flash pressed brick are laid on the top of the basement windows and the basement partitions are finished. All the brick work in the boiler

room is completed and work on the plumbing and wiring of this part of the building is well under way.

"Owing to the presence of the old brick on the ground the center partition walls were practically all finished before the material for the outside of the building arrived. This gave many people a mistaken idea of the general appearance the building will assume when finished. The partition walls are necessarily rough as a rough wall makes a better foundation for the hard plaster that is to be applied.

"The boiler room floor is to be eight feet lower than the balance of the building so as to give a perfect drain to all the radiators in the building. The basement will be on the ground level, thus it will be perfectly lighted and ventilated. In this department will be the manual training rooms, domestic science, book storage rooms and lavatories. A center hall extends the full length of the building and all rooms open onto it.

"All outside walls extend to a depth of eight feet below the surface and are faced with concrete to protect them from the moisture. Each corner is solidly reinforced with concrete piers as well as both front entrances and in the rear. The heavy center partitions that rest on deep foundations will obliterate any vibration in the structure due to the wind.

"The brown flash pressed brick will be used up to the second floor joists and from there to will be used with artistic panels of the darker shade. In the main entrances the floor will be of tile. Plenty large plate windows will be used to insure good light as this is one of the most important features in a modern school building.

"Contractor Reck is using Man-kato cement mortar in all the brick work. This is especially good grade and will set harder than any brick made. The city of Alliance should feel proud of such a building as it will be the equal of, if not better, than any other in the state."

In striking contrast to the above are the slanderous statements published in the same paper after it had lost out in the delinquent tax matter. It is not necessary to print those statements here, as they were recently published and readers of both papers are familiar with them.

### Another Case of Spitework and Falsehood

Turn now to another case of spite-work where the most barefaced falsehood has been resorted to by the same paper in trying to crush a legitimate business enterprise that has worked hard and accomplished much in trying to build up the business interests of Alliance. I refer to the unfair attacks that have been made within the last year by the Alliance Times upon The Herald and persons connected with it. I have refrained too long from mentioning this matter through the paper, because of my dislike for newspaper wrangling between competitors. No argument is needed to convince readers of The Herald that I have earnestly endeavored to bring about a spirit of unity among the people of Alliance. Rather than say or do anything that might produce discord, I have submitted a long time to gross misrepresentations without making reply, hoping that those who were knowingly publishing untruthful statements might be convicted by their own conscience. No good purpose can be served, so far as I can see, by waiting longer to refute the slanders that have been so persistently published. However, I do not intend to try to mention all the misstatements to which I refer, but wish to expose one so thoroughly that it will answer the purpose of contradicting all.

### Falsehoods concerning Herald Contest

Within the last two months, the Alliance Times has reeked with falsehoods concerning The Herald contest. The same utter lack of sincerity and disregard for the truth shown in the statements regarding Mr. Reck have been in evidence in the statements published regarding

I WISH TO DENOUNCE AS A TISSUE OF FALSEHOOD THE DEROGATORY STATEMENTS PUBLISHED IN RECENT ISSUES OF THE TIME REGARDING A CONTEST CONDUCTED BY ME A FEW YEARS AGO. Statements attributed to me were never made by me nor anything like them. My declining to reply to them sooner, instead of making the writer of them ashamed of himself, seems to have emboldened him to invent additional stories that no one ever before thought of.

Without going over these statements here one by one, and without trying to draw any one else into a controversy between the two newspapers by naming any person or persons to pass upon the veracity of the statements in question, I am willing to submit them with evidence of their falsity to a committee to be mutually agreed upon by the editor of the Times and myself, and publish the result of their findings. I do not wish to gamble upon what the decision of the committee will be neither have I a large sum of money to put up as a forfeit in the event that the report is not favorable to The Herald; but I will deposit twenty-five dollars to be given to the Times editor as a present if I fail to prove to the committee that at least three of the statements referred to are absolutely false. I will not ask that he, also, be required to put up a forfeit but will demand that he sign a written agreement to publish in his paper the findings of the committee. There are more than three statements that I can prove to be false, but that number will certainly be sufficient to show the utter unreliability of anything published in the Times concerning its competitor in business.

In concluding this article, I will say that The Herald contest of a few years ago was conducted honestly and to the best of my ability at that time. It was my first newspaper contest. I am willing to admit that it would have been better to have been in the hands of men experienced in that line of newspaper work, as is the Universal Club now being conducted for The Herald by Burgess, Johnson & Co., of Brookfield, Mo., and thus placing the responsibility upon men accustomed to that kind of work and who have established a reputation for fair dealing. They have entire charge of the present contest, as every active contestant knows. As the Times editor knows the same, this is another proof of the lack of honesty on his part in trying to saddle onto them blame for something of which they never heard before coming to Alliance a few weeks ago.

### SPOKE TO IOWA AUDIENCES

Rev. D. W. Montgomery Delivered Stereopticon Lecture in two Hawkeye State Towns

Rev. D. W. Montgomery returned on 43 Thursday from a trip a few hundred miles east, having visited Waterloo, Cedar Falls and Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and Omaha. At Waterloo and Cedar Falls he delivered his lecture on Northwestern Nebraska, illustrated with some fifty to seventy-five slides made from photographs taken by himself in his work as district missionary.

As many Herald readers will remember Rev. Montgomery's lecture at the First Presbyterian church in Alliance on last Thanksgiving eve consisted of two parts. It was entitled, "The Pilgrims and the Plains." The first part was illustrated with stereopticon views of scenes in England, Holland and New England. The last part showed the slides which were in his Iowa lectures.

So favorably has his lecture on Northwestern Nebraska been received that a proposition has been made to him to visit the Atlantic seaboard with it. As a public speaker, Mr. Montgomery is particularly adapted to this class of lecture, possessing as he does unusual talent in descriptive and narrative discourse. If he decides to accept the offer that has been made him to go east with his lecture, he will no doubt make a favorable impression. He will favorably impress his hearers as to his ability and the work of the church in this country.

His talk on this part of the country above referred to was not the complete lecture on Northwestern Nebraska. He informs The Herald that in the lecture as delivered farther east he describes some of the up-to-date features of this country as well as its pioneer aspects. This is very gratifying to us, as so many people in the east think that all of western Nebraska is composed of sandhills and badlands. We are glad when they have an opportunity to learn of some of the excellent things that make this country one of the most desirable places in the United States.

**Xmas Tree Decorations. Santa Clause Masks and Suits. Candles. At the BEE HIVE.**

# Blue Monday

## No Longer is Blue

Do you know who took the "blue" out of Monday and made Alliance housewives happy by putting it into piles of SNOWY WASHINGS?

WHY!

## The Alliance Steam Laundry

Why worry longer about Monday morning and the family washing? Save your hands—your temper—your money—by sending your soiled garments to the place that makes soiled clothing white as snow.

## Everything Carefully Finished

FATHER is no longer grouchy in the morning when he sees the shirt and collar that came from The Alliance Steam Laundry.

BROTHER hasn't used a swear word since he got the first bundle from The Alliance Steam Laundry.

SISTER'S temper is sweet since her shirtwaists have begun coming from the laundry just right.

MOTHER has plenty of time to sit down and enjoy the books she has neglected so long.

## ECONOMY -- SATISFACTION

That is the Guarantee of the  
**Alliance Steam Laundry**

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Work Called For and Delivered

# YOU

need lumber when you build. Perhaps you don't know the difference between good and poor

lumber. We do and we make it our business to see that those who patronize us get only GOOD lumber.

## Lumber

We carry one of the largest stocks of Lumber in western Nebraska. Our great buying power enables us to purchase cheaper than the small dealer. When you buy here you get the benefit of our low prices.



## Coal

is a necessity. Our customers have all been protected by a supply of good coal during the big Colorado strike. Get on our list of well satisfied patrons. It will pay you.

You can depend on the service you get from this company as being only of the best

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